

Remarks

Claim 16 was rejected under §112, second paragraph. It is believed that the amendment to claim 10 overcomes this rejection. Amended claim 10 now includes a second axis so the reference to the third axis in claim 16 is proper. For example, with reference to Figure 5, the first axis may be axis X, and the second axis may be axis Y, and the third axis may be axis Z. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the support means previously recited in claim 11, which has been further clarified. Claim 11 has been canceled. The remaining claims have been amended solely as to form. Claims 22-25 have been added.

Claims 10-12 and 14-21 were rejected as anticipated by FLYNT 2,512,636 and claim 13 was rejected as unpatentable further in view of SALDANA, Sr. 5,690,420. Claim 10 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 10 includes a first yoke member (30, element numbers are provided for ease of understanding these remarks and not by way of limitation), a second yoke member (32) swivellable relative to the first yoke member about a first axis (X) and having an arcuate support portion (33), and a third yoke member with two parts (35, 36) rotatable relative to each other,

where one of the two parts (35) is supported by the arcuate support portion (33) to enable slidable movement relative thereto along an arcuate path. The third yoke member also includes means (37) for supporting an object (38) for pivotal movement relative to the third yoke member about a second axis (Y).

FLYNT does not disclose the claimed third yoke member and thus the amended claims avoid the rejection under §102. FLYNT discloses mounting shafts 2 and 3 that support an object 1, but does not disclose that a third yoke member with two parts rotatable relative to each other, where one of the two parts is supported by the arcuate support portion to enable slidable movement relative thereto along an arcuate path. FLYNT discloses a yoke 7 that slides along an arcuate path, but does not disclose that this part is rotatable relative to another part of this yoke. The Official Action takes the position that shaft 18 and arcuate shoe 13 are the second yoke, and that the unnumbered part between motors 24 and 25 is the first yoke. Since FLYNT does not disclose all the limitations of amended claim 10, the rejection under §102 has been overcome. Claims 12-21 depend from claim 10 and are allowable therewith.

New claims 22-23 include a first yoke (30, element numbers again being provided for ease of reference and not by way of limitation), an arcuate second yoke (32) that is movable relative to the first yoke about a first axis (X), and a third

yoke that includes pivots (37) for pivotal movement of an object about a second axis (Y), where the third yoke has (a) an arcuate slider (35) that is slideably movable relative to the second yoke along an arcuate path and (b) a yoke arm (36) that is rotatable relative to the slider about a third axis (Z), the pivots being at diametrically opposite parts the yoke arm. FLYNT does not disclose the claimed third yoke with arcuate slider and yoke arm and thus these claims avoid the rejection of record.

Claim 23 further provides that the second yoke has a C-shaped cross-section (Figure 6) through at least 90° of arc (Figure 5), and that the arcuate slider has a first part that slides within the C-shaped cross-section and a second part that extends out of a slot defined by an open side of the C-shaped cross-section and to which said yoke arm is rotatably attached. FLYNT does not disclose this feature.

Claims 24-25 are allowable for the same reasons. Claim 24 is further allowable because FLYNT does not disclose that the arcuate second yoke that extends through at least 90° of arc, an arcuate slider that extends through at least 90° of arc, and a yoke arm that extends through at least 180° of arc (note that these arc ranges facilitate the range of movement depicted in Figure 8).

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

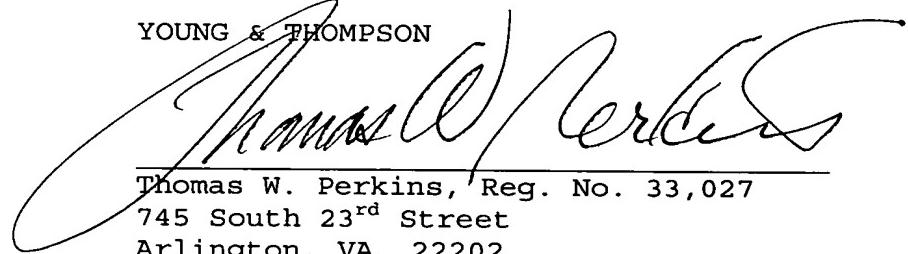
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placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

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